

The Converted Catholic Magazine



THE CHALLENGE

DON'T BE FOOLED BY DOUBLE TALK!

WHAT THE BIBLE DID FOR A CONVERTED PRIEST

CATHOLIC 'CONCERTINA' ETHICS ON WAR

ROME'S MANIPULATION OF SIN AND SALVATION

SCIENCE AND SIN-GUILT

REPORT TO OUR READERS

SOUL SNATCHING



JUNE, 1948

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THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

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 "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."—Luke xxii:32.

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The Converted Catholic Magazine

Edited by Former Catholic Priests

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Vol. 9 (New Series)

JUNE, 1948

No. 6

The Challenge

TWO FORCES now threaten the culture of Christian faith and freedom that came out of the Protestant Reformation. On the one hand is the ancient foe of Martin Luther and his associates, the Roman Catholic Church. On the other is the new force of Communism—the violent revolt of the masses against the injustices perpetrated against them down the centuries in the name of Christianity.

Both of these forces have the same objective: the overthrow of the post-Reformation Christian culture that we call Protestant and democratic. Roman Catholicism aims to force the Protestant Christian world back again under papal dominion. Communism would supplant this Christian civilization with one altogether different. It is being made to appear to Protestants that there are only two alternatives: either to submit again to the dictates of Rome or to enroll under the banner of Russia.

Many plans are being put forward to save our Christian civilization. None however goes to the root of the tragedy facing us. It is forgotten that it is a so-called Christian civilization that we are asked to save. As far as Europe is concerned, Roman Catholicism has left little of true Christianity for Communism to destroy. Communism is thus the blind avenger of the people who have been robbed of Christianity's saving message by the very institution established to proclaim it. In its rage its aims to smash to pieces the grandiose shell of the Church that is completely empty now of saving power.

Of these two evils Protestant Christianity must *not* choose the lesser. It must choose *neither*. For it possesses the power to challenge and overcome both—not

by any Marshall Plan, Truman Doctrine, ERP, UN, or any other alphabetical formula forced upon mankind from above. Not even a regimenting ecumenical Council of Protestant Churches will suffice. All these are but imitations of what has been tried and failed in Fascism, Nazism, Communism and Roman Catholicism.

The only plan that will save our Christian civilization is the one that will make our civilization Christian. This must work from the ground upwards, must be built up synthetically by units—by a lot of individual hearts consecrated and endowed with the saving power of Christ. For this is the genius of Christianity, that it is essentially an individual religion, one that generates power by personal contact of man, the sinner, with Christ, his Saviour on Calvary. This personal spiritual relationship first saves the soul of the sinner, then his social and economic relationships in his community. To try to save the social and economic system outside of him before saving himself from his sinful state is putting the cart before the horse.

But of all the pied pipers purporting to lead the crusade today to save mankind, the Pope of Rome is the most deceptive. He has piped his alluring tune in many different keys before, but every time he has led to a greater danger. It is Roman Catholicism which has led Europe into the arms of Communism. To save its own power it may, in the end, join forces with Communism, which is not so much the enemy as the rival of Roman Catholicism for the mastery of the world.

The challenge is therefore to lay the foundation for a revived Christian world. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* (I Cor. 3:11.) That same Christ has told us: *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Matt. 6:33.) The cure of man's social order can only follow after the cure of man himself.

God's promise to Jeremiah, *"Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth"* (Jer. 33:6), will be fulfilled only after the acceptance of His challenge: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* (II Chr. 7:14.)

ITALY'S 'CLERICAL REGIME'

FEARs are now being expressed that the victory over the Communists in Italy in the elections last April will put that country's fate into the hands of a reactionary Catholic clerical regime. "Satisfaction at having vanquished the threat of Communist domination," according to the N. Y. *Post* Rome correspondent Thomas Healy, "is giving place to misgivings that the nation might have a 'clerical government' for the next five years."

The absolute majority obtained by the Christian Democratic (Catholic) party, the N. Y. *Herald Tribune* of April 22 pointed out, was made up of many "who are not sympathetic to the whole Catholic program, but who merely wanted to strengthen Italy's strongest anti-Communist force." Many, it declared, "*seemed stunned as they contemplated the results.*" It quotes a spokesman for these as stating that "This was no election. This was a plebiscite for or against Russia."

The danger lies in the fact that between the Vatican-dominated regime of De Gasperi and the Communists there is no "third force" to counteract the reactionary tendencies of the controlling Catholic party. According to Thomas Healy's dispatch mentioned above, "*moderates see the clerical government as an impediment to Italy's social progress second only to that of Communism.*"

Paul Ghali, Chicago *Daily News* foreign correspondent cabled from Paris April 21: "*One of the most important consequences of Italian election returns . . . is the emergence of the Catholic Church as a political force of the first magnitude.*"

With a constitution that makes the Roman Catholic religion the official religion of the State, and which contains many disabilities against the freedom of non-Catholics, ex-priests and others, De Gasperi's regime will have nothing to stop it from putting into force in Italy the kind of social order blueprinted by the Vatican.

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But of all the pied pipers purporting to lead the crusade today to save mankind, the Pope of Rome is the most deceptive. He has piped his alluring tune in many different keys before, but every time he has led to a greater danger. It is Roman Catholicism which has led Europe into the arms of Communism. To save its own power it may, in the end, join forces with Communism, which is not so much the enemy as the rival of Roman Catholicism for the mastery of the world.

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DON'T BE FOOLED BY DOUBLE TALK!

"OUR SUNDAY VISITOR," sounding board of hate against all converted priests who uphold Christ as the only sure refuge of sinners against the background of Roman Catholic error, again attacked THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE and its editor in its issue for last January 11. We feel reluctant to take up the cudgels in our own defense against this widely circulated Catholic weekly paper. Instead, we are happy to have permission to reprint the following defense from the magazine "Prophecy Monthly," edited by Keith Brooks in Los Angeles, Calif., against this sadly misleading tirade, too easily believed by millions of unsuspecting Roman Catholics:

SOMEONE is supposed to have sent in the following question to the editor of *Our Sunday Visitor*, national Catholic weekly (1-11-'48): "Do you believe that the editor of THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC is sincere?" The answer is immediately forthcoming from "Father Quiz:"

"No, we do NOT! We have the records of a number of ex-clergymen who are associated with this publication, and they show them to have had trouble within the Catholic Church."

Editor Lehmann of CONVERTED CATHOLIC, has recently been speaking to great crowds at the Torrey Memorial Conference in Los Angeles. No one can hear this man of God tell the story of his conversion, while a highly trusted priest who had to make important missions to the Vatican, without realizing that he knows whereof he speaks . . . And anyone who reads, as we do in the offices of *Prophecy Monthly*, the latest official literature of the Roman Church, will not doubt the accuracy of Dr. Lehmann's assertions.

Hundreds of priests in recent years have been withdrawing from the Ro-

man Church, unable to go along with the more and more fantastic doctrines of the Vatican. Of course, they are all disposed of as individuals who were found to be morally unfit for the priesthood, and it is not beyond the bishops to "cook up" something real juicy about any man who dares to expose what goes on in the inner circles.

The paper mentioned, proceeds to brand Dr. Lehmann a liar when he says that the Roman Church "rejects the all-sufficiency of the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross and that, in its doctrine, additional sacrifices must be made daily by the priests." Here is their reply to this:

"The grade school Catholic knows that that is not true. He is taught that the redemption by Christ reinstated man in friendship with God and opened heaven which had been closed from the time of Adam's sin against the human race: He knows that the Mass is intended only to apply the fruits of Christ's redemption to individual souls, and that nothing could possibly be added to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, because it had infinite value."

What sort of double talk is this? Catholic literature on the Mass is flooding the world. In our Feb. issue we quoted from "What is the Mass?" one of their official handbooks. Let us repeat a bit:

"The Mass is the offering of the very body and blood of His divine Son. At the altar the priest brings down the body and blood of the Savior. The priest loses his personality entirely in the personality of Christ, the real high priest who is offering the sacrifice. It is almost as if the priest had ceased to exist, and Christ were standing in his place."

Is it not obvious that if "nothing possibly can be added to the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary," it should not be necessary for Christ Himself to be repeatedly sacrificed on Rome's altars. "The fruits of Christ's redemption," according to the plainest New Testament teachers, are available to the sinner who accepts His finished work by simple faith, without any priest to secure it for him. (Jn. 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36.) Where does Rome find New Testament warrant for imposing any other Mediator than Christ between the sinner and God?

If Christ's redemption on Calvary is indeed all-sufficient why does Rome teach that "the Mass IS the sacrifice of Christ Himself?" According to Rome's booklet, "Why the Mass?" by Traufer and Michael, the priest says at the altar: "We beseech Thee, Oh Lord to receive in atonement this sacrifice." That is not recognizing the all-sufficiency of what Jesus did 2,000 years ago, but *assuming to add to what He has done*. It is not merely

spiritually applying the benefits secured at Calvary, but putting Christ through another crucifixion, so as to make the worshipper wholly dependent upon a priest.

Quoting the same book: "Christ is truly and really present on that altar under the appearance of bread and wine . . . He is there the sacrificial gift which is being offered up to the heavenly Father . . . At every Mass Christ is present upon the altar *as the sacrificial victim*." Mind you, He who has risen victorious over death and taken His place as an Eternal Priest at the right hand of God's Throne, is again a "victim."

Is therefore the Mass, as *Sunday Visitor* intimates, just a spiritual application of the benefits of Christ to the worshipper, or is it, as their textbook, ("Why the Mass?") says: "in fact a *continuous enactment* of the sacrifice of Calvary . . . the Victim offered up to the Father for the expiation of the sins of mankind?" WHICH IS IT?

If the all-sufficient work of Calvary is the One Gateway of salvation, as this paper wants Protestants to believe, what does Rome mean, in its official booklet, "Devotion to Mary," when it says:

"With regard to salvation, let us never forget that we have no perfect security (in Christ alone); on the contrary, there is the possibility of a dreadful, everlasting damnation awaiting us. *Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* is a strong sign of predestination. We ought then to cultivate a true and living devotion to our Heavenly Queen that she may assist

us in the all-important affair of saving our souls." (p. 3)

"St. Albert writes that devotion to Mary is the *surest sign* of one's eternal salvation. St. Ephrem calls veneration of Mary the *entrance to paradise*, and St. Bernard calls love for Mary *the vehicle to heaven*. St. Berchman says: 'As long as I have not a tender love for the Blessed Virgin, *I am uncertain of my salvation.*'" (p. 4)

"Whoever venerates Mary will not be abandoned at the hour of death . . . She obtained from God the grace to be present at the death of all who are destined for life eternal . . . Mary has snatched from Satan countless numbers of souls in their last hour. If even the greatest sinner in his final struggle invokes Mary, he cannot be lost." (p. 8)

"Thousands of souls perish because Mary is withheld from them." (p. 11)

If anyone tells you Catholicism teaches the salvation revealed in the Word of God, just give them these quotations. There are hundreds more like them—all showing that the simple plan of salvation through receiving the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world, is entirely ignored. Salvation is made to depend on Mary, without whom heaven would be missed, and upon the priests.

* * *

To these undeniable proofs of Catholic double-talk, so ably presented by *Prophecy Monthly*, we add the following:

In the official Catholic Catechism (*An Explanation of the 'Baltimore*

Catechism, used in Catholic schools and colleges) is the following question and answer (p. 238, Question 265):

"Q. Is the Mass the same sacrifice as that of the Cross?

"A. The Mass is the same sacrifice as that of the Cross."

Most amazing of all is a recent booklet by Jesuit Father John P. Delaney entitled, *My Mind Wanders*, published by the Jesuits at 24 West 16th Street in New York. It is endorsed by Cardinal Spellman and his board of censors, and on page 15 has the following (addressed to priests—italics are the author's own):

"By offering the Mass you *add something to Calvary, you almost improve on Calvary.*"

Then about Mary's being essential to salvation, we can quote from a recent book officially endorsed by Cardinal Stritch of Chicago. The book is entitled, *Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima*, and on page 28 it has the following:

"*Thou art the Gate of Heaven, O Mother beloved;
No one shall enter save through thee.*"

Who is lying? 'Our Sunday Visitor' or the Most Eminent Cardinals of New York and Chicago?

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SOUL-SNATCHING

A PROTESTANT MOTHER writes:

"When my son was an infant he was taken seriously ill and was rushed to a Catholic hospital. Without my knowledge or consent a nurse baptized him a Roman Catholic. Then the matron baptized him again because she wasn't sure if the nurse had performed the rite correctly. Afterwards a priest baptized him a third time to make it official. My son is now seven years old and the priest of the Catholic Church here says he is a Roman Catholic. What am I to do?"

Catholic nurses in Catholic hospitals, and even in non-Catholic hospitals, are instructed to baptize all the babies they can if they are in danger of death and not yet baptized. As a consequence, when such infants recover, they are counted as Roman Catholics for the rest of their lives. Thus, the son of this Protestant mother is held to be a Roman Catholic and obliged to conform to all the rules and regulations of Canon Law. If he gets married in a Protestant church, his marriage, by Roman Catholic authorities, will be counted invalid and his children illegitimate—even if he marries a Protestant girl.

This is one way the Roman Catholic Church has of snatching the souls of Protestant and even Jewish children and making them Roman Catholics to swell the membership of the Catholic Church. Another way is to railroad as many abandoned babies as can be found into Catholic foundling homes and orphanages. In this, the Catholic Church is aided by policemen and welfare officials, most of whom in our large cities like New York are Roman Catholics.

SCIENCE AND SIN-GUILT

FOLLOWING is typical of letters we receive from many who heartily endorse our work, but object, on scientific and rational grounds, to our religious beliefs. It is a comment on the Christmas greeting poem accompanying L. H. Lehmann's picture: "*Not what these hands have done, can save this guilty soul . . .*" The writer asks why Dr. Lehmann should feel that guilty:

"Do you really feel that guilty?" he asks. "Surely you do not embezzle money, get drunk or go out with loose women. Then why insist on that load of sin? The papists of course think that you did commit a terrible sin when you repudiated Pius XII. They have an interest in proving that you are a sinner, and that you should have a deep sense of guilt. They are glad to have you admit it. But I do not think you sinned so deeply. Going back on Pius XII was a virtue, not a sin. You live a self-respecting life. Sin is not your major problem."

The writer is an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Toledo, and obviously lacks understanding of what sin really is. He does not know that Christians try to look upon sin, not from the scientific level of man or of human nature, but from God's level, from which it can be seen that "*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*"

What this friend fails to comprehend is that it is not so much sin but *salvation from sin* with which we are concerned. The poem in question expresses the need that all men have of a power above men to save from sin and its consequences. It primarily refers to the uselessness of the hands

of a priest to play any part in such forgiveness and salvation. Not only drunkards and sexual libertines need Christ's saving power, but also so-called 'good' people who live exemplary lives. For these 'good' people know that *not by the fact that they lead exemplary lives are they saved from sin, but that they lead exemplary lives because they have been saved from sin by the all-saving work of Jesus Christ.* All these can truthfully say with Dr. Lehmann and other converted priests: *"Not what these hands have done can save this guilty soul; Not what this toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole."*

This professor of philosophy encourages us by ending his letter as follows:

"I admit that no liberals can do what you are doing as effectively as you are doing it. You have my blessing, even though, in the light of reason and science, I make some reservations."

All our thanks to him for this, and our hope that he may combine the development of spiritual insight with his philosophical and rational lucubrations.

NOT BY WORKS . . .

A WELL-MEANING Catholic woman—Mrs. Blanche Meiers of Oakland, California—came to visit us at our offices last year. She told us her sister was dying of cancer and that she was offering up her sister's life to God for our return to the Roman Catholic Church. She promised—almost threatened—that she herself would perform many severe penances for the same purpose.

Last February 12, Mrs. Meiers wrote as follows:

"Dear Father Lehmann:

It has been almost one year since I last wrote you. Remember I told you, I would gladly give up my sister to God if He would let me find you in heaven. Sister died a most beautiful death in Oakland, October 20, 1947. She received the last sacraments and two priests were at her bedside when she died of cancer.

I want to let you know that I have not eaten candy or cake for almost a year - - All for the salvation of your soul. I intend to continue as long as I live - - To do penance for you.

Goodbye until next year.

*Mrs. Blanche Meiers
1500 - 36th Avenue
Oakland, Cal."*

This good Catholic lady is deceived by the teaching of her Church that salvation may be had by human works—not eating cake and candy, by suffering the excruciating pain of incurable cancer, and even by self-inflicted torture. It would be sad indeed if we really had to depend upon these for pardon of sin and salvation.

"If our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Cor. 4:3, 4.)

That Gospel teaches and assures us: *"By grace are ye saved, through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:9.)*

"The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.)

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." (Rom: 8:1.)

This is our answer to Mrs. Meiers and all our Catholic friends.

SPIRITUAL FEAR COMPLEXES

A CONVERTED CATHOLIC, once a student for the priesthood, finds difficulty still in ridding himself completely of the fears instilled into him about Purgatory in his youth in Seville, Spain, and later in the Roman Catholic Seminary of the diocese of Brooklyn, N. Y. He writes:

"In spite of all my studies and knowledge of the Holy Bible, in spite of all my work and instruction, I still cannot get rid of the seed of Romanism. Although I am a fervent opponent of Roman Catholic doctrine and practices, when meditating on the question of salvation I feel lost and confused. Penances, good works, mortification and human suffering were so instilled into my mind that when I compare these with the precious Gospel teaching I still remain confused . . .

"Bitterly opposed as I am to the Church of Rome, I still am living in constant fear of condemnation."

This fear of the Roman Catholic Church's claim to be able to punish after death often remains in converted Catholic people. It is purely the result of the fear-conditioning of the physical reflexes in youth. Nevertheless, it causes much anguish to sensitive souls who have bravely left the Roman Catholic Church and placed all their trust in the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ. There remains a conflict between such Gospel assurances as

that *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus,"* and the physical anxiety neurosis that the fear-conditioning of Roman Catholic training sets up in its victims when they are young.

But "perfect love casts out fear," and in spite of such automatic fear complexes, the converted Catholic can always rest assured that the power of the Lord will win out in the end over the power of men.

This converted Catholic is Mr. Luis G. Valencia, who lives at 2021 Lafontaine Avenue, Bronx 57, N. Y. We ask our readers' prayers and help for him.

"DUNCHA" DEPT.

THE FOLLOWING warning (on the back of a Catholic pamphlet) was received by Agora Publishing Company not to publish books *"fer thoas bad preests"* of Christ's Mission:

"DEAR FREND:

"DUNCHA PRINT NO BOOK FER THOAS BAD PREESTS AT 756 SEVEN AVENA N. Y. THEY GOT CHAISE OUT CATOLIK CHURCH FER STEEL AN WOOMANS. HE GOT 2 STOAR IN FILLADELFIA. ONE PREEST HEES NAME MR. PALMER, 201 SOUTE 13TEEN SHTREET. HE SING ALL NITE LIKE KATZ. OUR PREEST NO WANNA ME BY HEES BOOK HE CALL CONVERTEDED CATOLIK. HE PREECH HEREESEE, AND FATTER CRAWFORD NO WANT US BY BOOK AT 730 SHESSNOT ST. PALMERS GURL WID GLASSES SELL SUM MAN CONVERTEDED CATOLIK. DIS MAN HEE BAD. HE GIB THE BOOK TO SUM CATOLIK AND NOW HEE NO GO TO CHURTCH."

WHAT THE BIBLE DID FOR ME

By REV. J. A. FERNANDEZ

[Mr. Fernandez is a converted Roman Catholic priest, now a Presbyterian pastor in Philadelphia and an assistant in our work at Christ's Mission. This article is part of a book he is writing: "I Was Blind, Now I See," and is copyrighted, 1948, by J. A. Fernandez.]

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3.)

THE WORK of the Holy Spirit, begun in my soul by drawing me to Christ and convicting me of my sins, was especially manifest in showing me the way of salvation in Jesus Christ, by opening my understanding to the Word of God, that Word which sounds foolishness to the wise of the world, because, "*The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" (1 Cor. 2:14).

The Bible transformed my life and I, for one, can testify that it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. It happened in this most unusual way.

I was born in Spain, in a home where Roman Catholicism permeated the heart, the mind, and even the body; where the priest's word was law that had to be obeyed. At the age of twelve I was sent away from home to study in a so-called "Apostolic

School," having been already earmarked by my devout parents for the priesthood. In a monastery of Spain I completed my college education, and in 1921 I was ordered to this country to learn English and study theology. I was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1924 in New Orleans, La. After fifteen years of service in the Roman Catholic Church as assistant pastor and then as pastor of a very large church in that city, I lost my faith in the Roman Catholic religion.

Not knowing where to turn, I took the road of the world and sought for happiness wherever I could find it. For a year and a half a terrific struggle went on within my heart. I felt tempted to turn away from God and everything sacred and become an atheist. But to this day I thank God for His infinite mercy, for when I felt thus tempted, I cried with the words that came out from the depths of Peter's heart: "*Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.*" (John 6:68.)

After a year and a half of a broken life, I took the road to a monastery for the purpose of consecrating myself entirely to the great task of earning and working out my own salvation. In the seclusion of a monastery, I thought, God would surely give me that assurance of salvation and the happiness which my soul was seeking in vain.

But soon I discovered that, in spite of the secluded life and penances of the monastic practices, I was very far from the way of salvation. My heart knew no happiness. But God had a purpose in bringing me to the monastery. Paradoxical as it may sound, it was while in the monastery that I became acquainted with evangelical Christianity, mainly through the reading of the Bible. Until then the Bible did not mean much to me. It was indeed the inspired Word of God, but I was told that the ordinary human mind is not able to really understand its meaning. A supermind, an *infallible* authority, I believed, was necessary to give us the meaning of what was in the mind of the Holy Spirit when He inspired the sacred writers. So I preferred to read the Word of God as understood by this human *infallible* authority and as found in the Roman Catholic missals and prayer books. The Holy Spirit, the supreme infallible authority in the understanding of the Scriptures, had been replaced by the voice of the Church. But somehow, and for a reason that I cannot explain, in the solitude of my retreat I took to the reading of the Bible. At first it was rather tiresome and irksome. But gradually my mind was opened and I began to understand the

meaning of certain passages in the Bible to which I had not paid particular attention in the past.

I was particularly impressed with the following verses as I read them even in the Catholic Douay Version:

I Tim. 2:5, 6: "For there is one God; and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus Who gave himself a redemption for all, a testimony in due times."

Acts 16:31: "But they said: Believe in the Lord Jesus: and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Eph. 6:24: "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruption."

I Tim. 4:1-3: "Now the Spirit manifestly saith that in the last times some shall depart from the faith . . . Forbidding to marry, to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful and by them that have known the truth."

The force of these and other texts made a terrific impact on my soul. They made me wonder if the claim of the Roman Catholic Church to be the infallible interpreter of the Bible could really be sustained in the light of the plain language of the Word of God. Thus the seed was planted in my soul, but again I tried to smother it. I was too prejudiced against so-called "Bible Christianity" or Protestantism. After two years of monastic life I had not found happiness or salvation. The reading of the Bible had thwarted my plans. But I decided not to join the Protestants. But neither could I go on living in the monastery. Yet, that little seed planted in the garden of my soul while in the monastery was to bear fruit later on, for it

is true that God's word "shall not return void."

Wishing to get away from it all, I enlisted in 1942 in the U. S. Army as a private. Having gone through the basic training, I was graduated from a Military Intelligence Training Center, and assigned temporarily to the chaplain's office at Camp Ritchie, Md. The chaplain was a Protestant minister, quite a scholar and a fluent speaker. I enjoyed listening to his sermons on Sunday mornings. One Sunday he preached on salvation by faith alone, basing his arguments mainly on the teachings of St. Paul. Up to that time I had clung tenaciously to the belief in salvation by works. After the service I went to the chaplain's office to let him know how I felt about his "heretic" statements.

Armed with the text from *James* 2: 24: "*Do you see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only?*", I arrogantly and ignorantly said to him: "If what you said is right, then James is wrong; but if James is right, then you and Paul are wrong. Otherwise you must admit that there is a contradiction in the Bible." I really felt proud of my argument, and I thought I had the chaplain cornered. But, with a smile of pity, he bade me sit down and to "take it easy." In a calm, humble, dignified way, his voice ringing with affection for the spiritual welfare of this soldier who questioned his theology, he told me:

"José, there can be no contradiction in the Bible, for the Holy Spirit is its only author, and the Spirit cannot contradict Himself." With that, of course, I fully agreed. "Now," he continued,

"when St. Paul says that salvation is by faith alone, he speaks from the point of view of God, who reads our hearts and sees our minds. So as far as God is concerned, we are saved the very moment that we believe. But this belief, please notice, is not just a mental assent, but a complete surrender of oneself to Jesus Christ. On the other hand, when St. James states that salvation is by works also, he speaks from the point of view of men, who being unable to read our minds or see the secrets of our hearts, must have something visible and tangible by which to judge whether we are saved or not. As far as men are concerned, we are saved when we produce good works, for '*Ye shall know them by their fruits.*' (*Matt. 7:16.*) Good works are the natural expression of a saving faith."

I had never heard such an explanation before. It was a revelation to me, and I accepted it. With this, the last intellectual barrier was removed from my mind. Now I was intellectually convinced of the truth; I was an *intellectual* believer. On this basis I decided to devote the rest of my life, after being separated from the army, to the Christian ministry, not realizing that a true conversion must effect a complete change not only of mind but, above all, of heart. My mind was converted, but my heart remained unchanged. I believed in every fundamental truth of the Bible—so does the devil—but I had not surrendered my heart to Christ. That glorious experience was to come six months later in a most unique way.

In the fall of 1944, I was assigned as interpreter for South American offi-

cers studying the military science of mechanized cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas. While doing army reconnaissance, I also engaged in spiritual reconnoitering. I was praying for light, studying for information, and searching after the truth. In the previous six months I must have visited some fifty Protestant churches of various denominations. But it was not God's plan that I should find Christ, my Saviour, in any church. Three quarters of my life had been spent in church, and yet Christ remained a stranger to me. It was God's purpose, for reasons of His own, that I should find my Saviour on a street corner.

In searching for the truth, I tried every means. One Saturday night I attended the Salvation Army open-air service on a street corner of Junction City, Kansas. My attitude toward the meeting at first was one of indifference and even of scorn. But as the meeting went on, I was being driven by a supernatural force to lend my earnest attention. My effort was rewarded. A young lady, wearing the Salvation Army uniform, gave the message — a beautiful, stirring message—which she ended by appealing to those standing by to give their hearts to Christ. "Take Christ," she said, "into your souls tonight, and He will satisfy your every desire. I do not ask you to give up anything, I am only asking you to take Christ." And then she quoted the words of Christ in John 5:24: "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life; and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.*"

These last words did it. As I listened to them, I felt myself passing from death into life, and under the impulse of the Holy Spirit I went down on my knees and gave my heart to Christ. I was born again. I was made a new creature; I was transformed; my heart was converted; I was a sinner saved by grace. From that moment I became a living witness of the transforming power of the Word of God. I cannot explain this transformation, but the fact remains that I was dead, but now I live; I was blind, now I see.



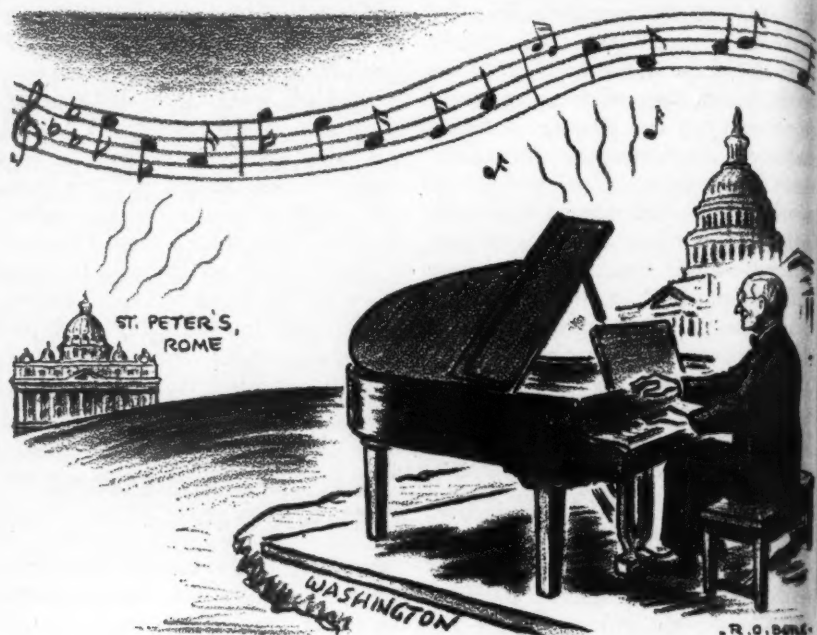
CHRISTIAN CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

A CALL for teen-age American correspondents from European youth has come to our office through Ernest Fuller, Superintendent of the International Pen Friendship Club. Mr. Fuller writes that "90% of these young people are of the Catholic faith, and without question, they are seeking a new world through the medium of true friendly correspondence."

We particularly urge truly converted Evangelical young people to accept this challenging opportunity to testify and write to:

Ernest Fuller,
International Pen Friendship Club
Block, "C," 6, Polygon Buildings
Euston, London, N.W. 1
England.

Be sure to enclose an International Reply Envelope, obtainable at any Post Office, to defray cost of return letter.



MELODY ACROSS THE SEA

We urge our readers to sign and send a copy of this to President Truman:

PETITION

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, BELIEVING IN RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FOR ALL AND WITHOUT PARTIALITY TO ANY ONE DENOMINATION OR SECT; AND VIGOROUSLY UPHOLDING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH STANDS FOR THE COMPLETE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, DO HEREBY PROTEST AGAINST ALL NEGOTIATIONS OR ALLIANCES, SECRET OR OTHERWISE BY ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR COMBINATION INVOLVING OUR GOVERNMENT WITH, OR THE APPOINTMENT OF ANY ENVOY WHETHER SPECIAL OR OTHERWISE DESIGNATED TO ANY RELIGION, AND FURTHERMORE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE ABOLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE HELD BY MYRON C. TAYLOR AS "SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE VATICAN."

VENEZUELA'S EX-PRIESTS

WE HAVE made 'on-the-spot' inquiries in Venezuela as to the true nature of the revolt of the 250 Roman Catholic priests reported in a United Press dispatch some time ago as having withdrawn from the Roman Catholic Church and set up a new Church of their own.

The group is headed by a young priest, Luis Castillo Mendez, who was created Archbishop of the new Church in Caracas by former Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Duarte of Brazil. The demands of Mendez and his fellow-priests included: church services in the language of the people; severance of jurisdiction from Rome, and legal marriage of priests. We have had no definite assurance, however, as to a true spiritual conversion in the Evangelical sense of these separatist priests.

Following is a frank report on the matter from Rev. John Gosney, minister of the American Church in Caracas:

"We still are unable to tell you how many priests are involved in this revolt against Rome; however, the number is far smaller than that indicated by the article in your magazine which quoted a United Press release. I fear that they have no intention of becoming Evangelicals. It appears to me from their literature and what I hear of the movement that they desire a national Catholic church of Venezuela or South America. Mass and the Seven Sacraments remain unchanged except for allegiance to Rome. The main feature of their movement is the marriage of the clergy.

"I would hardly take the responsibility of saying that Mendez is not a truly



**HEAD OF NEW CHURCH
IN VENEZUELA**

Here is a picture of Father Luis Castillo Mendez published last January 8 in 'La Presna,' daily newspaper of Caracas, Venezuela, which devoted front-page, banner headlines to the announcement of the formation of his new "Venezuelan Apostolic Catholic Church." Mendez signs his name to all the new decrees as "Patriarch of Caracas and Primate of Venezuela."

born-again Christian, but I fear that his concept of Christ and the Christian Church is far different from yours and mine."

We hope that this first step by these priests away from Rome will be followed by a true spiritual awakening that will lead them and their people to a full acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ and His all-saving message.

REPORT TO OUR READERS

[This is a copy of a letter mailed last month to all our readers giving a report of our work and its needs.]

Dear Friend:

I am writing to tell you of the progress during the past year of the work of Christ's Mission and THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE.

The Lord continues to prove to us how needful is this peculiar ministry of ours, especially in these perilous times. Never has there been a greater challenge to uphold the saving power of Christ against the forces that threaten to destroy the whole fabric of our Christian civilization. To us converted priests is given a special ministry of testifying, out of our own experience, to this saving and keeping power of Jesus Christ.

All we do is accomplished by the tested power of the Gospel teaching, to which we, in a special manner, have been called. Our Magazine carries that message to increasing thousands. In this past year we have been able to expand the scope of our ministry by extensive preaching tours into more than twenty states, from coast to coast. I estimate that close to 100,000 people have thus been able to hear the spoken word of our message this past year. To this can be added our personal counselling, of Catholics and Protestants, on individual problems arising out of mixed marriages and other questions relating to Roman Catholic activities in our American communities.

You can judge how serious this Catholic question has become from the fact that twice during the past year the United States Supreme Court has been called upon to render decisions affecting the Roman Catholic Church and the public schools. Did you ever think you would see the day when, as has happened for instance in Dixon, New Mexico, Protestant children would be forced by Catholic nuns in public schools to go to confession, to recite Catholic prayers, and even to play bingo (at a nickel a game) during school hours? Or that a judge of the Supreme Court of New York would decide that the iniquitous contracts for Mixed Marriages as drawn up by Roman Catholic authorities must be enforced by American law?

Protestantism is now fighting for the very existence of its faith and culture against two great forces - Catholicism and Communism. Apparently enemies, these two forces are really rivals for the complete mastery of the Protestant democratic world.

Christ's Mission, like David with his sling facing Goliath, battles to uphold the saving power of Christ on Calvary against both these forces of destruction. For it is

the only antidote - the only power that can save as against that which threatens to destroy the Christian civilization that we cherish.

We are free, as perhaps no other Christian institution, to do battle for the Lord in this vital conflict. We are not identified with, nor supported by any particular denomination or group, and this leaves us free to cooperate with all. We are anxious to continue to expand the scope of our usefulness this coming year in the following ways:

1. To increase the circulation of our Magazine from its present 40,000 to a possible 100,000;
2. To be instrumental in the conversion of many more Catholic lay people and priests, and to help more converted priests to join with us in our work;
3. To expand our preaching work throughout all the states of the Union;
4. To arouse all Christian communities to the need of demonstrating the all-saving power of the Gospel of Christ to an unbelieving and dying world.

To carry out this program we depend entirely upon the prayers and financial assistance of friends like you. Our auditor's report of last year shows we spent \$1,186.14 over and above the total income we received to carry on all phases of our work. Special projects, such as helping ex-priests and sending our Magazine to Protestant ministers and Catholic priests, are financed by contributions from our readers, since the exceedingly low rate of \$1.00 a year subscription for our Magazine does not begin to cover its production and circulation costs.

I think we can modestly but safely say that rarely has so much work of the Lord been done with so little financial assistance. We want to increase our achievements, but must have adequate financial aid, not only to expand, but to keep our work going in view of increased costs these days.

This is our ANNUAL APPEAL to you to contribute what you can to make this possible. I hope you will be able to send us at least the small minimum amount of \$5.00 that we are trusting the Lord to lay upon the hearts of our readers. Whatever your gift, we will gratefully accept it as a token of your prayerful interest in the important ministry of Christ's Mission.

Do this now, and may the Lord bless you in all things.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Leo H. Lehmann

Leo H. Lehmann

For your protection and ours, send all contributions for the work of Christ's Mission direct to our offices at 756 Seventh Avenue, New York 19, N. Y. Make checks and money orders payable to CHRIST'S MISSION INC.

CATHOLIC 'CONCERTINA' ETHICS ON WAR

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S ethics on war, like its other moral teachings, can be conveniently stretched back and forth to suit the expediency of time and place.

Merely for the sake of the record,

we reproduce below a contrast between the public pronouncements of the Vatican and Catholic leaders in America on draft proposals in 1940 and in 1948.

In 1940, official Catholic propagand-

THE TABLET, SATURD

ARCHBISHOP SEES CONSCRIPTION AS MOVE TOWARD WAR

Most Rev. John T. McNicholas
in Pastoral Urges People
To Protest

SAYS WE MUST AVOID WAR

Burke-Wadsworth Bill As-
sailed As Menace To
Country

Cincinnati, July 31.—The proposed compulsory military training in the United States was branded as "the serious beginning of a totalitarian form of government in our country" by Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, Archbishop of Cincinnati.

CARDINAL DOUGHERTY OPPOSES DRAFT MOVE

Volunteer Plan Best, Prelate
Says in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 16.—On the occasion of the celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday, Cardinal Dougherty said that he was opposed to conscription and in favor of a volunteer plan.

SPAIN HONORS AMERICANS

Great Cross of Isabella Given to
4 Prelates, 3 Laymen

MADRID, Aug. 8 (UP)—General Francisco Franco is "signal token of my appreciation" has announced to seven Americans.

Wisconsin Priest Opposes Peacetime Draft

COMPULSORY military training, as proposed in the Burke-Wadsworth bill before Congress, was denounced by the Rev. Peter E. Dietz at the regular-Sunday services of St. Monica's Catholic church in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin.

Catholic Bishops on National Defense

THE BISHOPS of the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, through the general secretary, the Right Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Ready, have informed the Senate Committee on Military Affairs toward national defense.

NO PEACE TIME CONSCRIPTION

WITH a deep understanding of human nature, Thomas Jefferson warned us against necessity in government. For government must necessarily be conducted by human beings, and it tastes power it is.

One form of vigilance is to write your Senators and your Congressman to vote against any form of peace-time conscription. Write at once, for liberty does not wait on tomorrow.

AMERICA AUGUST 17, 1940

SLOVAKS TO COMBINE RELIGION AND NAZISM

Premier Madga Now Counselor of National Socialism

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia, Aug. 25.—Slovakia's governmental system of German nazism and Roman Catholicism. Premier Vojtech Tuka revealed in a speech at the National Assembly of Bratislava that the "Slovak Republic" was announced in connection with the announcement of the "Slovak Republic" in 1939.

Masons Banned By Petain Order

Vichy, France, Aug. 3 (R)—The Petain Government has ordered dissolution of Freemasonry and all other secret societies in France.

IT WAS THIS WAY IN 1940

ABOVE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES SHOW HOW THE VATICAN AND THE HIERARCHY IN AMERICA FOUGHT AGAINST THE DRAFT IN 1940 TO FIGHT PACISM AND NAZISM.

CATHOLIC SUPPORT OF NAZIS INDICATED

Statement by Reich Bishops' Conference is Expected to Revise Church Stand

DUE EARLY IN SEPTEMBER

Leader Sympathetic to Hitler Active at Session—Metz Bishop is Evicted

WINNERS in THE NEW YORK TIMES. BERLIN, Aug. 27.—The pastoral letter of German Bishops, usually issued after the Bishop's conference at Fulda, which closed here, is expected to be first.

MONTREAL MAYOR SCORED AS DEFIANT

His Request to People Not to Obey Registrars

German Propaganda in Colombia Seen as Winning Conservatism

Fifth Columnists Among Influential Part of Community Developed—They Spread Nazi View

OPPOSE AID TO ALLIES

Catholic Veterans Outlawed in Neutral

NEWARK, N. J., June 25.—Fifth annual national convention of the Catholic War Veterans of America was held today in a session to the Administration of lending all material aid to the Allies.

The 500 delegates and officers met at the Hotel Hamilton in the Frank buildings.

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THE ENQUIRER, CINCINNATI, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1940

CATHOLICISM**Public Enemy No. 1,****Methodist Minister Declares —
Church Blamed For Totalitarianism —**

Declaring that the Roman Catholic Church is the chief enemy of democracy and of Protestant Christianity, Rev. E. R. Strassford, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, Hamilton, and President of the Methodist Ministers' Association of Greater Cincinnati, said yesterday it was time that the ministers go to battle against the attitude of the Catholic Church. Rev. Mr. Strassford said:

THE NEW YORK SUN, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1940

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**VATICAN RADIO
HITS U. S. DRAFT****Says Priests Should Be
Exempt From Service.****DIVINITY STUDENTS ALSO**

A speaker from the Vatican in Rome last night criticized the U. S. draft law.

**CATHOLIC BISHOP SAYS
NAZIS WAGE 'JUST WAR'****Army Aide Praises 'Christian
Attitude' of Troops in Battle**

BERLIN, Oct. 4.—In a pastoral letter directed to German soldiers of the Catholic faith, Dr. Franziskus Rarkowski, Field Bishop of the German Army, today expressed his belief that Germany was "waging a just war," and praised both the fighting spirit of the German Catholic soldiers as well as their adherence to their religious teachings and the "Christian attitude" of the troops.

THIS WAS ALSO IN 1940**HERE IS THE WAY IT IS IN 1948**

N.Y. Journal American March 18, 1948

Spellman Backs Universal Training

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1948

Catholic N.Y. Times
Tablet 3/27/48**VATICAN ACCLAIMS
SPEECH OF TRUMAN****Official Paper Says Further
Expansion Moves by Soviet
Cannot Be Justified**By CAMELLE M. CLANFAMMA
Special to The New York Times

ROME, March 18.—L'Osservatore Romano gave today wholehearted approval to President Truman's speech, which it said reflected the unity of the Western world over the Soviet Union's imperialistic policy in Europe.

SPAIN ACCLAIMS TRUMAN**Speech Called Awakening to the
'Realities in Europe'**

MADRID, March 18.—President Truman's speech has been received in Spain with great interest and acclaim. The press and radio are giving it the widest possible distribution. There is apparent agreement on two points—first, that it has come tardily, and, second, that it is better late than never.

One Government official who refused to be identified said, "At last you Americans are beginning to awaken to the realities of things in Europe."

**CARDINAL SPELLMAN
APPROVES OF U. N. T.****Testifies to Trust in "Men Who
Know Better" at Dinner Here
in Honor of St. Patrick**

If the choice or rejection of Universal Military Training were presented to a vote of the American people, Cardinal Spellman would cast his vote for it, the primate declared at the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Cardinal Spellman, principal speaker

**ABOVE HEADLINES SHOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S ATTITUDE TOWARD
PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S PROPOSED DRAFT SPEECH OF MARCH 17, 1948.**

da was definitely opposed to America's arming against Hitler and Mussolini. Today, in 1948, the almost unanimous assent of the Vatican and the American hierarchy is in favor of arming our American youth against Russia.

In 1941, shortly before Pearl Harbor, the Jesuits made a nation-wide poll of all priests on two vital questions then facing America: whether the United States should enter the war against world Fascism and give aid to Russia. Of the 34,616 priests polled, 14,703, (over 40%) answered. Of these 90.1% voted a definite "no." A few courageous Catholics who tried to make it known that the American Catholic people, if left to themselves, would have voted differently were howled down by their leaders who carried out the designs of the Vatican.

Catholic moral theology teaches, in theory, that a Catholic cannot fight in a war unless it is a 'just war.' The Catholic Encyclopedia states that "*a war is just only when it is against foreign violation in a case where there is no other means available to secure or*

repair the right." Catholic theologians quote ten conditions listed by St. Augustine, which must be fulfilled before a war can be called 'just.' Among these are the following:

"That war should be declared only when every means to prevent it has failed."

"Right intention to further by the war that which is good and to shun that which is evil."

"Avoidance of unnecessary upheavals of countries not immediately concerned."


Was our war then against Hitler and Mussolini unjust, and would a war today against Russia be just? The Vatican never denounced the ruthless war of the Axis dictators against the democracies. It did its best to discourage the United States preparing for and entering that war to defeat the Axis dictators. Now, when a war against Russia is in the offing, the Vatican and the American hierarchy are in the forefront of those who clamor for armed might against Russia.

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ROME'S MANIPULATION OF SIN AND SALVATION

By L. H. LEHMANN

THE LACK of spiritual power in the Catholic Church is due to its manipulation of the things of God on the level of human weakness. This is done to sustain the power of its organization, for to raise the level of its worship above men would liberate its people from the control of its priesthood.

This is seen at its worst in the Catholic Church's manipulation of sin and salvation from it. Both sin and salvation are placed in the hands of its priests. They are given the power to water down sin on the one hand, and, on the other, to offer just so much salvation as suits their system of ecclesiastical control. The result is a loss of perspective of the enormity of sin in the first instance, and a lack of adequate understanding of the stupendous implications of Christian salvation in the other.

Light views of sin—slicing it up thick and thin like sausage to suit price and power—destroy not only a true perspective of man's contravention of God's law, but drag down the

sublime act of Christ's redemption from sin to the same fleshly level of man's working. *Christ's all-saving act of salvation on Calvary can only be understood for the stupendous fact that it is, by an awareness of the enormity of sin that made that act of saving necessary.*

Approach to both sin and salvation, therefore, must be from God's level; never from that of man. But man shrinks from such an approach, and institutions of power play upon that aversion in the natural heart. They appeal instead to man's natural inclination to treat everything on the fleshly level. They insist that poor mortal man can never dare to worship God in spirit and in truth, and thus keep his gaze fixed upon the attractive things of his unregenerate heart.

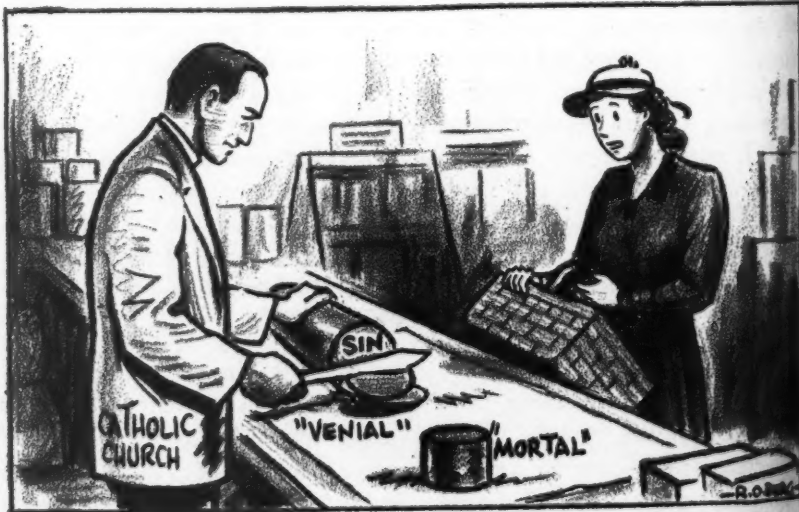
A popular religion like Roman Catholicism, that must ever attract the multitudes, can not dare to teach its people how to live in Christ. It must rather keep them dead in the Church's fleshly devotions. For if the people were to become alive in Christ, the

priests would have no further need to act on and for them. The moment the sinner becomes alive in Christ his sins are taken away, and there is therefore no further need of sacrifice for them. "Where remission of these is there is no further offering for sin . . ." (Heb. 10:18.) The concern of the priests is to prepare magnificent rituals *about* the death of Christ. They must never teach the people how to become *identified with Him* in death and life.

The truth of God is not only unwelcome but actually repellent to the sinners' heart. For this truth reveals the sinner's utterly lost condition, and although he may feel remorse about his sins, he is averse to giving up the fleshly satisfaction that he derives from sin. He is repelled from acknowledging his lost condition and seeks

temporary palliatives rather than complete and permanent cure. The only way he can obtain this complete cure is by grace direct from God, and this is possible only by appreciation of his utter helplessness to save himself. It also involves a realization that no priestly sacrifices, no pandering to sensuous devotions can help him. The appeal of Christ is to the spirit, heart and conscience, not to the senses and feelings.*

* The appeal of the feminine in Roman Catholic worship should be noted. Modern business advertising has copied this to create an association between the feminine body and the body of automobiles, the form of refrigerators, etc. It has proved to be a very profitable business asset. But the Roman Catholic Church has used this for many centuries. The female form of Mary towers over everything else in Roman Catholic ritual. Even the priests and bishops, and the Pope himself, dress in female clothes, lace skirts and



Slicing it thick and thin . . . to suit price and power.

girdles. This semi-female appearance of priests and bishops drew the cynical remark from Voltaire that "There are three sexes—the masculine, the feminine and the ecclesiastical."

Priests of a 'power religion' like Roman Catholicism can not teach this correct relationship of the sinner to God, for it would destroy the power of the organization which they must uphold at all costs—unless they are prepared to abandon that institution of power in order to generate in the hearts of their people that spiritual power through Christ which alone can save.

EDITOR'S MIDWEST TOUR

By L. H. LEHMANN

IN APRIL I made a very successful speaking tour of Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. Everywhere I was greeted by large appreciative audiences. I estimate that a total of about 10,000 heard my message, including two conferences of Lutheran pastors, of whom more than a hundred were present.

Following is a list of the places I visited and spoke a total of 24 times:

- April 4: Moorhead, Minn.
 " 5: Hendricks, Minn.

- April 6: Madison, S. Dakota
 " 7: Huron, S. Dakota
 " 8: Letcher, S. Dakota
 " 9: Mitchell, S. Dakota
 " 11: Windom, Minn.
 " 11: Jackson, Minn.
 " 12: Kenyon, Minn.
 " 13: Estherville, Iowa
 " 14: Ossian, Iowa
 " 15: Decorah (Lutheran College), Iowa
 " 15: Decorah (Lutheran Church), Iowa
 " 16: Big Canoe, Iowa
 " 17: Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minn.
 " 18: Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

I was especially edified and heartened by the strong evangelical movement among the Evangelical Lutheran churches of this midwest area. This Protestant stronghold of America will preserve its faith and freedom as long as this continues to flourish.

WHICH IS THE TRUE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST?

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along religious lines will not help the working man nor the unity of the American people in the recurring crises that the entire world faces today. But the Roman Catholic Church, in keeping with its traditional policy of 'divide and conquer,' has instituted its own system of labor unions, entitled American Association of Catholic Trade Unionists (ACTU). Only Catholics obedient to the teachings of their Church and prepared to fight for the principles of social reform laid down in papal encyclicals are permitted to be members. A like policy has been put into practice by the Catholic Church in all other departments of American life—in education, press, movies, boy scouts, etc.

Some labor leaders, however, who are Roman Catholics are definitely opposed to this divisive factor by which their Church drives a further wedge into the groupings of labor unions. Most opposed is Daniel L. Tobin, for 40 years head of the powerful AFL Teamsters' Union, and who, together with Philip Murray, James Carey and Albert Fitzgerald of the CIO and Longshoreman Joe Ryan of the AFL, is a faithful Roman Catholic.

Here is Tobin's answer to the question as to what he thinks of ACTU, whose activities are supervised by local priests. It was published in a recent issue of the *New Republic*:

"Opposed to it!" he roared. "Unequivocally opposed! I was born and raised a Catholic. I've tried to live by my religion and bring up my six children in the

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REV. GORDON HILL

Secretary, Irish Church Mission, 11 Buckingham St., London, W. C. 2, England

Former General Superintendent in Dublin Rev. Canon T. C. Hammond, M.A., Th.D. (now Principal of Moore College, Sydney, Australia), noted author, theologian, radio speaker, and 1948 President of British Inter-Varsity Fellowship, will visit New York in August direct from Britain.

Faith. But a labor union movement divided along religious lines cannot survive. We've got history to go by. It was the Catholic unions in Germany which split the mighty German workers' movement and made things easy for Hitler with the bosses' money in his jeans. I'm not going to let misguided people of my own faith do that here—not when we face the attack we're facing today."

It would be well if these Catholic labor leaders expressed their open opposition in like manner against the efforts of the Roman Catholic Church to divide the good forces in our land by setting up its own control also in other vital institutions of American life.

BUDDHISM AND CATHOLICISM

ACCORDING to the Buddhist religion, a person can obtain complete salvation (in Nirvana) only by the path of Enlightenment after almost endless reincarnations. This path is the hard disappointing way of human works, penances, mortifications, denials, fastings, self-inflicted torture, solitude, etc.

It is believed that in the whole universe only twenty-eight persons have attained this state of complete salvation, and of those twenty-eight only four have belonged to this earth.

How hopeless a religion this is may be judged from the belief of its followers that only twenty-eight individuals in the whole universe from the beginning of time have reached this state of eternal bliss with God. Fur-

thermore, of these twenty-eight, only four have belonged to this earth.

Roman Catholicism teaches a similar belief that makes it almost impossible for even those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ to get to heaven immediately after they die. Like Buddhism and Hinduism and most other pagan religions, Roman Catholicism teaches that further suffering and expiation for sin after death is necessary, and that no one, not even the pope himself, can determine (except in a very few cases) how long this excruciating suffering after death will continue.

And like these other religions, Roman Catholicism has also determined the number of the few who have reached heaven. These are the canonized "saints," and their number now is said to total exactly 1,500 to date. This is a slight improvement on Buddhism which confines the number to twenty-eight.

Against this depressing teaching that has held the human race in bondage to ecclesiastical power since the beginning of history, true Christians joyfully proclaim their faith in the definite assurances of complete salvation and liberation that are contained on almost every page of the New Testament.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom. 8:1.)

"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Tim. 1:12.)

THE PASSING SHOW

► ON THE DAY that the House of Representatives voted to include Franco Spain in the Marshall Plan, the prayer at the opening session was recited by Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last March 31.

► CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S new Communist-controlled government has not interfered with religious schools in its new education law. According to an AP dispatch from Prague of March 16, government spokesmen declared that "churches would continue to have their own schools and to regulate religious instruction in the state schools."

► BISHOP MIROSLAV NOVAK of Prague announced last March 15, according to the N. Y. 'Times,' that the Czechoslovak Church is fully behind the new government of Klement Gottwald. The Czechoslovak Church is the independent (Protestant) Church of former Roman Catholic priests and people who broke with Rome after the first World War. It is the second largest church body in Czechoslovakia with nearly one million members.

► STALIN was acclaimed by the Patriarch of Moscow in a recent pastoral letter as "selected by God," according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last March 19. He styled Stalin as "the wise leader whom the providence of God chose and set to lead our fatherland on the path of prosperity and peace." The late Pope Pius XI once spoke of Mussolini in like manner as "the man sent by Providence."

► THE INTRODUCTORY article to the publication of "The Goebbels Diaries" in the N. Y. Times of March 14, begins as follows: "*Joseph Goebbels was born Oct. 29, 1897 . . . His parents were devout Roman Catholics. Joseph . . . attended a Catholic grade school and went through the gymnasium or high school. He obtained Catholic scholarships and attended eight famous German universities . . .*"

► 'THE CATHEDRAL BULLETIN,' of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, in its issue for last March, announces a "Cathedral Branch of the New York Public Library at 564 Lexington Avenue," and adds: "*Here can be obtained all the books that are fit to read.*"

► PROTESTANTS formed a radio commission last March 17, under the auspices of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, according to the Newark 'Evening News.' The commission is a cooperative agency of 15 major denominational and eight interdenominational bodies "for a wider and more intelligent use of radio for religious purposes."

► 103 CATHOLIC students out of 103 remained at Baldwin-Wallace (Methodist) College despite the command of the Bishop of Cleveland to leave and enter Catholic colleges because of the required 8 hours of Philosophy of Religion and regular chapel attendance. [C.C.M., April, 1948, p. 98.]

► ANOTHER 'Red' editor has joined the Catholic Church. He is Douglas A. Hyde, formerly news editor of the Communist 'Daily Worker' of London, England. According to the N. Y. 'Herald Tribune' of last March 19, Mr. Hyde's action was motivated by fear that what has happened in Czechoslovakia "may be expected in Italy, France and even Britain."

► PROTESTANTS IN GERMANY have formed a united Church Council, on the lines of the Federation of Churches of Christ in America, which will represent about 35,000,000 German Christians, according to the N. Y. 'Times' of last March 21. Among the signers were Pastor Martin Niemöller, Bishop J. W. Ernest Sommer of the Methodist area of Frankfurt on the Main, Bishop Theophil Wurm of Württemberg, president of the Evangelical Church in Germany, Lutheran Bishop Otto Dehlius of Berlin, Rev. Paul Schmidt and Rev. Hugo Hartnack for the Baptists, and Rev. Ernest Pieper for the Evangelical United Brethren.

► **HEART** ailments and cancer caused 72 per cent of the deaths in the United States in 1947, according to a report of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

► **FIFTEEN** South American countries allow divorce. Five others — Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay — permit only separation in accord with the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.

► **IN A LETTER** to German leaders made public last April 15, Pope Pius XII declared that *"the world should forgive and forget Germany's war crimes and help in her reconstruction,"* according to an AP dispatch from Berlin in the Cedar Rapids *Gazette* of April 16.

► **JOSEPH W. MARTIN**, Speaker of the House and possible presidential candidate is, like his mother, a Roman Catholic, according to a check-up we have made.

► **ACCOMPANIED** by Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen and an entourage of 12 other prominent Catholic prelates, Cardinal Spellman arrived in Sydney, Australia, last April 26 for the centenary celebrations of the Catholic Church in Melbourne. They were greeted at the airport by Mr.

J. B. Chifley, the Prime Minister, who is a Roman Catholic.

► **CORPORATION COUNSEL** John P. McGrath of the New York City Board of Education announced last March 18 that New York's program of 'released time' for religious instruction during school hours is constitutional, and does not come under the ban of the U. S. Supreme Court of last March 8 in its decision against the program heretofore established in the schools of Champaign, Ill. Others, however, are of the opposite opinion and have instituted legal action in New York Courts challenging the entire program.

► **'THE SAINT PAUL GUILD,'** with national headquarters in New York, advertises for financial help for "ministers converted to Catholicism." The appeal stresses that the Guild helps these men "and others whose conversion (to Catholicism) may have brought an end to their established livelihood."

► **THE TRAITOR** Robert H. Best, who broadcast Nazi-Fascist hate for Goebbels in Berlin during the war, defended himself at his trial, according to 'Newsweek' of April 26, that "his anti-communist views were based on what he called two papal 'encyclicals,' *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno*."

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EVANGELICAL 'VOICE OF THE ANDES'

AFTER sixteen years of missionary broadcasting, the famous Evangelical radio station in Quito, Ecuador, was singularly honored by the Government of that country last December 25. Its license was extended till 1980 and the radio station itself (HCJB) was "knighted" by Don Carlos Julio Arosemena, President of the Republic of Ecuador, who conferred upon it the National Order "for merit." The call signal HCJB signifies "Heralding Christ Jesus' Blessings."

This radio station, high up on the Andes, broadcasts in 16 languages over seven different transmitters, thus reaching to the ends of the earth with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It broadcasts a Radio Newspaper entitled, "*Como ha Amanecido el Mundo*" ("How the World has Awakened"), of which more than five thousand transmissions have been made. It is described in the Quito newspaper *El Nacional* of last January 19 as one of the most powerful radio stations in South America, broadcasting "scientific, artistic, historic, sociological and spiritual teachings of a high moral value which nurture intelligence, elevate the plane of living, provoke thought, and kindle the mind."

For many years our friend and colleague, Rev. Manuel G. Aldama, converted Spanish priest*, has been in charge of Spanish Gospel broadcasts

* See his book: *From Priest to Radio Gospel Minister*, Price \$1.50.



"THE VOICE OF THE ANDES"
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World-wide broadcasting station in Quito, Ecuador, S. A., which carries the Gospel message in sixteen different languages to all parts of the world.

over Station HCJB. New York offices of "Voice of the Andes," incorporated as "World Radio Missionary Fellowship," are at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

CHURCH-STATE CLASH IN POLAND

UNDER the pre-war Fascist dictatorship of Marshal Pilsudski, Poland was 73% Roman Catholic, and by the terms of the concordat with the Vatican the Roman Catholic religion was the official religion of the State; education and marriage were under control of the Catholic Church, and the Government paid the Church a subsidy of \$5,000,000 annually.

Today, under the post-war Leftist regime, Poland is 96% Roman Catholic — due to the extermination of most of the Jewish population and the absorption by Russia of part of the Ukraine. But no special favors are now granted to the Roman Catholic

Church, except that the Roman Catholic religion is taught in all schools. As in most democratic countries, marriage has been placed on a civil contract basis and divorce is permitted. The Catholic Church's control of youth has also been hampered by the formation of Government-sponsored youth organizations for boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 21.

So far the Vatican has refused to recognize the present Government of Poland and has declared open war against it. According to Sydney Gruson, N. Y. *Times'* special correspondent, in a dispatch from Warsaw to that paper last February 21, the Polish Government makes the two following demands on the Catholic Church: "1) that the Church must not participate in politics, and 2) that the Church adopt a positive attitude toward the Government's attempt to rebuild the country." According to this same correspondent, it is admitted that: "The only thing that will satisfy the Church is a change of government."

Both Polish Cardinals, Hlond and Sapieha, have recently returned from Rome carrying with them a definite plan of action plotted with Pope Pius XII. According to the N. Y. *Times* of last February 9, Cardinal Hlond met with Poland's twenty-five bishops the previous Thursday, February 5, and presented them with "a list of secret directions that had been discussed with and approved by Pope Pius XII during the Cardinal's recent visit to Rome." Cardinal (Prince) Sapieha of Cracow did not attend the meeting and it was reported that he opposed Cardinal Hlond's violent policies, al-

though the official demands of the Vatican to the Government were signed by both Cardinals.

What seems to offend the Vatican more than anything that Poland's post-war Government has done, is the granting of full religious freedom and equality to the Mariavite and other dissenting Catholic and Protestant sects in Poland. The Roman Catholic Church is definitely and enthusiastically in favor of religious liberty—but only for the Roman Catholic Church.

God Warned Us Long Ago

About The Papal Antichrist



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THE GNAT (non-sectarian quarterly) seeks to revive the prophetic **PRINCIPLES** of the Reformers and to expose Jesuit errors which all but killed them.

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About Books

DISCOVERY, by H. S. Hillyer; 129 pp.
Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids,
Mich.; paper cover, \$1.00.

THIS IS the story of the conversion of a priest in South America. Though in the form of a novel, it is the true story of Father Subareta, priest of the Roman Catholic Church in St. Thomas, a small town in the Cochabamba valley, Bolivia. Like Paul, Father Subareta first was an enemy of the Christian missionaries in this Roman Catholic town. Then, led by the grace of the Lord and the example of the Protestant missionaries, he finally renounced the priesthood in the presence of his bishop and his mother and became himself a missionary of the Gospel.

American Protestants, and even Roman Catholics, will hardly credit the true picture this story gives of the social and immoral conditions in the Catholic countries of South America. Accustomed as they are to the camouflage which makes Roman Catholicism appear almost Evangelical in the United States, Americans will be shocked to discover what the Catholic Church really looks like in a country where it has full control.

This book was originally published in Spanish under the title, *Antes Era Ciego, Ahora Veo*, and has been the means under God of bringing many South American Roman Catholics to accept the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that the English translation may do likewise for many Roman Catholics in the United States.

This is a fine story for everybody who is interested in the conversion of Roman Catholic priests and people. The book is greatly enhanced by no less than 18 illustrations. For the price of \$1.00, it is worth any man's effort to get a copy. —L.H.L.

OUT OF THE LABYRINTH

ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING is a review of L. H. Lehmann's book *Out of the Labyrinth*, which appeared in a secular newspaper, *The Pittsburgh Courier*, of last March 20. Seldom does a secular newspaper dare to take heed of what we write on the Roman Catholic question. This review is an objective, fair appraisal from a disinterested point of view. We marvel at the keen awareness of the reviewer, especially her analyses of the two-fold objective of the book: 1) its defense of Evangelical Christianity; and 2) the use by the Roman Catholic Church of its twisted teaching about salvation to serve its purposes of power.

Here is the review in full:

AN "EXPOSE" OF THE ROMAN CHURCH

AN EARNEST attempt to analyze and explain the shortcomings of a religion he foresook is former Roman Catholic priest L. H. Lehmann's "Out of the Labyrinth" (Agora Publishing Company, \$3).

In this volume the Rev. Mr. Lehmann defends his belief in Evangelical Christianity, or direct salvation through faith in Christ as opposed to the Roman Catholic doctrine that salvation is possible only through the intercession of the priesthood on behalf of the repentant sinner.

With this as his main thesis the author proceeds to show with documentation how Catholic teachings run contrary to admonitions in the Bible, and cites history to show pagan rather than Christian origins of a number of elements in the Catholic ritual.

Obviously, opinions on the above might differ, but his criticism goes further than interpretation of the Bible or ritual. He makes the very serious charge that inasmuch as the Roman Catholic Church uses its influence to increase its power as well as to save souls, where there is a conflict between these two aims, the salvation frequently must give way to the expediency of the moment in achieving greater power over the people.

The Catholic Church must certainly answer this challenge or confess to a failing so grave as to give pause to all but the blindest of communicants.

MABEL M. SMYTHE

Reviews of Dr. Lehmann's book in Protestant periodicals are, of course, more warm-hearted, since the reviewers recognize it as a sturdy defense of the entire Protestant position vis-à-vis the intensified struggle of the Roman Catholic Church today for complete mastery in the religious world.

Here is one by Hyman J. Appelman, editor of *The International Evangelist*, published in Glendale, California:

Here are thirty-three blazing, burning, true-to-life, convicting, convincing chapters, contrasting Catholicism with real Christianity. Not only is this a book to be put into the hands of every preacher, of every Protestant preacher, but it is also a book to be placed in the hands of every Catholic wherever possible. Each chapter is a sermon of fact and appeal for a total surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, for shaking off the shackles of the slavery of Catholicism. The chapters, 'What Salvation Really Means,' 'How Sins are Really Forgiveness,' 'The Impossibility of Purgatory,' 'How We Are Sanctified,' 'By What Authority,' 'Rome's Salvation by Law,' 'The True Priesthood of Christ,' 'What Would Christ Say Today,' 'The A to Z of Salvation' are worth many times the

price of the book. This volume will serve as a mine of sermonic and illustrative material to preachers. It will serve as a guide book to those who are striving to win the lost, especially among the Catholics, to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are truly indebted to both author and publisher for this best volume of its kind that has ever been produced.

Then the *Alabama Baptist* goes so far as to say:

"Perhaps no man in America is as well qualified to refute from both Scripture and logic the many specious claims of the hierarchy. Few if any can make the doctrines of sin, salvation, future life and all the other doctrines of grace any plainer in as few words."

Among Protestant leaders who have highly recommended *Out of the Labyrinth* as a vitally important book for both clergy and laity are the following:

Dr. Harry A. Ironside, pastor, Moody Memorial Church, Chicago;

Ernest Gordon, of the 'Sunday School Times'

Dr. William Ward Ayer, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New York;

Dr. T. Christie Innis, Executive Secretary of the American Tract Society;

Dr. W. Stanley Rycroft, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Co-operation in Latin America.



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THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

REMINDER

WE WISH to remind our readers that the next issue of "The Converted Catholic Magazine" (for September) will be mailed about the middle of August. We need the summer months for necessary research and reorganization of the mechanics of distribution.

LEGAL LIGHT

[This refers to New York State Judge Nathan Lapham's recent decision regarding the legal enforceability of a mixed marriage contract. C.C.M., March, 1948, p. 97.]

"I READ your magazine regularly and find it interesting as well as helpful in many spirited discussions with my Catholic friends.

"Persons not living in New York State do not realize that the New York Supreme Court is a trial court and not comparable to the Supreme Courts of Illinois or Ohio, and that the highest tribunal in New York is the Court of Appeals. Thus the ruling on this case is for the parties only who are before the court. If not appealed this decision is final as far as it goes, but it is in no sense the final rule of law of New York on Catholic premarital contracts.

"Pre-marital agreements relating to property and testamentary disposition of property are generally upheld in every state, where there is adequate consideration in the contract, full capacity of parties, and no evidence of coercion in the execution. Although the Catholic mixed marriage agreement is repulsive to us Protestants it seems to be a valid contract legally."

—Miss Marion H. Schenk,
Attorney-at-law, Chicago, Ill.

PROFIT AND BLESSING

"HAVE READ my copy of 'Out of the Labyrinth' and can only hope and pray that many, many thousands of people have the opportunity to receive its message.

"No one can read it, without immense profit and rich blessing."

—D. A. Campbell, Troy, New York

COMPANIONS

"YOUR BOOK, 'Out of the Labyrinth' which I recently purchased, has been read by my wife and myself. My wife is on reading it again. Your book gave me a stronger hold on my own Protestant faith, and I want it and the Bible to be by me until I pass from this life, which may not be long, as I am now past 70.

"You have done so much for us Protestants, and I know you will do much more that your name will live as long as the name of Martin Luther."

—J. W. Keith, Madison Heights, Michigan

SERMON MATERIAL

"I DO appreciate the magazine 'The Converted Catholic.' It has opened my eyes to a great many things, and I find much of that material is usable for sermons and private counselling."

—Rev. Harry Sundell, Northbrook, Illinois

JUST THE NEED

"MY HUSBAND, a former Roman Catholic, has found your magazine to be what he required to lead him 'Out of the Labyrinth.'"

—Mrs. J. F. Dolezal, Minneapolis, Minnesota

APPRECIATED ARTICLE

"YOUR ARTICLE 'The Great Betrayal' in the March issue of 'The Converted Catholic Magazine' explains the position of the Catholic Church in a way that I've never seen published before. Would to God that article could be put in the hands of every Catholic and Protestant. It explains much in an understandable way."

—Mrs. Wallace H. Clark, La Grange, Illinois

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The Work of Christ's Mission

CHRIST'S MISSION was founded in New York City in 1879 by Rev. James A. O'Connor, a former Roman Catholic priest. Having come to the knowledge of true Christian teaching, he determined to make it known to his former Catholic brethren. A special feature of his Mission has been to help other priests to follow his example and to enable them to find positions in life after resigning from the Roman priesthood. In the more than sixty years of its existence, Christ's Mission has aided more than 300 former Catholic priests in this way.

Its articles of incorporation state that Christ's Mission was founded for the purpose of mutual improvement of religious knowledge and *for the furtherance of religious opinion.* It

therefore maintains its platform in the heart of New York City as an open forum for the discussion of the vital differences between the religious and cultural values of Reformation teaching and those of Roman Catholicism.

It also seeks to enlighten non-Catholics as to Vatican-inspired activities against civil and religious liberty. In treating of this subject, however, it carefully distinguishes between (1) the Roman Curia, (2) the hierarchy, and (3) the Catholic laity. It does not assail individuals, but speaks plainly about the aims and workings of Roman Ecclesiasticism, of which they all form a part. Nor does it connect any considerable percentages of the laity with the political schemes of either the Vatican or the hierarchy.

CHRIST'S MISSION — Form of Bequest

I give and bequeath to Christ's Mission, incorporated in the State of New York, the sum of \$..... to be applied to the uses and purposes of said Mission.

Sunday Meetings are now held at the National Bible Institute, 340 West 55th Street at 3.30 P.M. and are in charge of Rev. A. Callandro

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